

Current Class: ~~SECRET~~
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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 04729 181358Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /027 W
-----035781 190247Z /70

R 181237Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1611
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

~~SECRET~~ ASUNCION 4729

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PA
SUBJ: MENDEZ FLEITAS DETENTION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8669

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full ~~DECLINTREL~~

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. AT BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH FONMIN NOGUES NOVEMBER 16 HE ASKED CHARGE IF USG HAD TAKEN NOTE OF RELEASE IN ARGENTINA OF EPIFANIO MENDEZ FLEITAS. HE ADDED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING CLAIMS BY MENDEZ (SIX) THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE ARGENTINE POLICE AT GOP'S REQUEST, THIS SIMPLY WAS NOT TRUE AND GOP HAD HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THE CASE.

2. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHETHER NOGUES DISCUSSED THE MENDEZ CASE WITH GOA DURING HIS SHORT VISIT TO BA, OR WHETHER HE MAY IN FACT HAVE URGED GOA TO RELEASE MENDEZ BECAUSE OF THE UNWELCOME PUBLICITY ABROAD. ALTHOUGH THIS CASE WILL SOON GATHER DUST AND LOSE ITS IMMEDIACY, WE SHALL REPORT IF/WHEN WE CAN ANSWER EITHER QUESTION.
BRIGGS

NNN

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UNCLASSIFIED